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18 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Clandestine Service Historical Board

SUBJECT : Management and Planning of the CS  
Historical Program

REFERENCE : [REDACTED], revised 22 October 1970

1. This memorandum is submitted to record my views, for such value as they may have, concerning the present and future organization, management and planning for the CS and Agency historical programs. These are:

a. There need not and should not be an integrated Agency historical program. The CS historical program should be organized and administered separately from the overall program and those of other directorates.

b. If there is to be an integrated Agency program, the CS should have a greater voice in its direction. A senior and qualified CS official should be designated Chief of the CIA Historical Staff, or at least his deputy. The views and unique problems of the CS should be given greater weight in the administration of the Agency program than is now the case.

c. CS input into overall Agency and other directorate histories should be agreed between the CS and other, outside components. Disagreements should be resolved by higher management and not by the CIA Historical Staff.

d. Where non-CS histories incorporate CS material and refer to or describe CS operations the draft histories should be reviewed by appropriate CS components before publication. Access to and control of particularly sensitive drafts and published histories should be coordinated with the CS.

e. The direction and management of the CIA historical program should be entrusted to experienced CIA career personnel. Outside professional historians,

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if engaged, should serve as consultants and not as executives.

Discussion bearing on the above points follows:

2. The review and editing of CS draft histories by the present Chief and Deputy Chief of the CIA Historical Staff, neither of whom are members of the CS, is not consistent with other DDP policies and compartmentation practices to which we have become conditioned over the years. True, this is a matter of little concern to some writers of some histories. Others, in spite of instructions to the contrary, unconsciously or deliberately sterilize significant and sensitive content from their histories because they are reviewed and read outside the DDP.

3. There are over 300 histories in the present "catch-up" phase of the CS historical program which is scheduled for completion in 1971. This is over twice the number scheduled for the other three directorates combined. The DDP is the largest of the directorates; its activities are more varied and widespread, and are unique in character. In view of these facts, and the desirability of shielding the CS from unnecessary scrutiny by persons outside the CS, the CS should have a greater voice in policies and administration and have a maximum degree of autonomy consistent with the goals of the overall Agency program. A completely integrated CIA historical program is not compatible with the integrity and security of the Clandestine Service.

4. Under the present system the Chief and Deputy Chief of the CIA Historical Staff involve themselves in the internal management of the CS program and are quite assertive of their prerogative to do so. Their views on the policies and problems of the CS program are sometimes useful, but are often unrealistic and stubbornly held. They have not always been careful to consult or inform the Secretary or the Chief of the CS Historical Board when they meet with component historical officers and writers. In fact, the Chief regards it as his prerogative to give direction to any CS writer and to review any or all histories before they are published. This creates concern and confusion in the CS but it is difficult to challenge in view of referenced notice.

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5. In the past it was general practice for the Historical Staff to publish only two copies of completed histories, one to be held by the controlling component and one by the directorate involved. There were a few exceptions to this practice. Recently, however, C/CIA/HS issued instructions that all non-CS histories be published in three copies, one of which is to be held in the CIA/HS office in Rosslyn in a centralized collection. He is also having additional copies of previously published histories prepared for the Rosslyn office so that CIA/HS would have a complete set of histories, except for those of the CS. (There have been unconfirmed indications that DDS&T is not affected by these instructions, or is resisting them.)

6. The DDS histories in general contain considerable information concerning CS programs, the other directorates less, if at all. According to [REDACTED] CIA/HS Documents Officer, there are two DDS histories which go quite extensively into CS operations. One of these was published by the Office of Communications, OC-1, [REDACTED] 18 September 1947 - 1 July 1951, completed on 30 August 1968. The other, nearing completion is a history of the Office of Finance. Mr. [REDACTED], who has seen portions of this history, says that it is well written with a good deal of operational detail. (A listing of DDS histories is attached.)

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7. So far as I have been able to determine there has been no systematic review of other directorate or overall histories by any element of the DDP, nor does the DDP exercise any control over access to those histories which contain information concerning CS operations past or present. I have avoided raising this issue within the CIA/HS in order to minimize the question of access to and control of our own histories. I feel, however, that the matter of controlling access to CS information in the histories of other directorates, including the CIA/HS collection, should be further examined and discussed at appropriate levels of the CS and the Agency. Procedures should be established restricting access to CS histories and CS information to those who need to know. At the same time one should not lose sight of the basic aims of the historical program. The histories must be made available to those inside and outside the CS who have a legitimate need to read them.

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8. Views similar to those above have been expressed by my predecessors. They were considered but generally rejected when decisions were made establishing the present organization and policies of the CIA and CS historical programs. I am not suggesting a substantial reorganization of the programs at this time. I do, however, wish to register my views for consideration should circumstances in the future make a reorganization feasible and desirable.

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Executive Secretary, CS/HB

Attachment  
DDS histories list

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